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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	25X1
SUBJECT	Activities of SVAZARM in Karlovy Vary	DATE DISTR.	24 November 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The secretariat of the SVAZARM (Union for Cooperation with the Army) district organization in Karlovy Vary is located in Dimitrova trida. Two salaried employees are employed there.

2. New members of SVAZARM must go through basic training, which takes 80 hours. Basic training consists of close-order drill, marching, theory of fire, firing of small arms, topography, and first aid. Those members who complete their basic training may enroll in one of the following sections: parachutist, radio technician, gliding, driving, carrier-pigeon breeding and training, and shooting.

3. The parachutist section has about 20 members. All of them are considered to be politically very reliable. Every Saturday there is a two-hour instruction in theory dealing with methods of jumping, folding of parachutes, meteorology, and military instructions. Practical training consists of surmounting obstacles, practice jumps on the grounds, unfolding and folding of parachutes, and other introductions for real jumping. The course lasts about three months. It is concluded by examinations. The students who pass the examination are issued a parachutist's certificate, which is followed by a stiff medical examination in the hospital. Liability to nervous diseases and proper functioning of all senses are thoroughly tested. After this examination, successful candidates are trained in jumping. Jumps are made from a four-seater Fairchild aircraft. Part of the Karlovy Vary Airfield is used for jumping. The parachutists are issued battle dress, red berets, and top boots. The activity of the parachutist section is on the whole slight, and it is kept going only by a few enthusiasts.

4. The radio section in Karlovy Vary has not, so far, developed any kind of activity beyond training in Morse code. This section is supposed to embrace all radio amateurs and to work with a transmitter lent by the army until an amateur transmitting station is built up.

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5. The gliding section has 12 gliders and three engine-powered aircraft for towing. It also has a winch. The section is very active; gliding takes place every Sunday. The section uses Karlovy Vary Airfield.

6. The driving section has developed the highest activity of all SVAZARM sections because young people are keen to pass driving tests and acquire driving licenses. This section provides its members with free driving courses and tests.

7. All activities of the carrier-pigeon breeding and training section are conducted at a former barbers' clubroom on the corner of Chebska trida.

8. The shooting section in Karlovy Vary has developed no special activity. It is kept in existence only by a few enthusiasts. It is equipped with air guns and small-caliber weapons.

9. In spite of considerable support and directives from the Ministry of National Defense, the SVAZARM organization in Karlovy Vary has not developed the activity which its financial endowment would permit.

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